

25X1A

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**COUNTRY:** Ceylon  
**SUBJECT:** Health and Sanitation Data -25X1A2g  
Colombo

August 154

Pages: 2

**PLACE ACQUIRED:** 25X1A -

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**DATE ACQUIRED:**

**DATE OF INFO:** 1952 and earlier

**SOURCE:**  
US.

25X1X6

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1. The population of Colombo, Western Ceylon is roughly 300 thousand extending over its area of 30 sq m. Colombo has water and air communication with Bombay and Singapore.
2. In 1951 there were 13 deaths per one thousand population, and 120 deaths per one thousand live births in Colombo. The major causes of death are malnutritional complications, ancylostomiasis, TB, heart diseases, and gastro-intestinal diseases. Endemic diseases are malaria, ancylostomiasis, malnutrition, and yaws.
3. The government-owned inadequate public water supply is derived from rain water which is filtrated, chlorinated and distributed by pipes. It serves about 50 percent of the population. The sanitary quality of the water is checked by chemical and bacteriological examination. Bottled waters are not used. There are some wells located in the city.
4. The Health Department does exercise some control over all food-processing operations. Cow's milk is distributed in bottles, but it is not pasteurized. The cows are not tuberculin tested.
5. The operating sanitary sewerage system serves 50 - 60 percent of the population. Other human excreta is disposed in the deep pits or the sea. The sea is the ultimate repository for sewage. Human excreta is used for fertiliser on a limited scale and vegetables are grown on the same land. The drainage system is adequate to carry surface runoff. In the outskirts of the city there are places where surface water collects and stands after a heavy rain.
6. Garbage is collected daily or every other day, and is disposed of by "filling" and "incinerating". Other refuse is collected. Human dead are buried. There is organized pest control over mosquitoes, flies, rodents, and fleas.

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7. There is only one hospital with 1200 beds, one thousand of which are charity beds. This does not include four private hospitals with 10-50 beds apiece. All medical services and common drugs are readily available.
8. The local Health and Welfare Administration has active divisions in all branches of public health. Communicable diseases are reported. Children receive the following immunizations: TAB, smallpox, and cholera. The public assistance system aids from two - five percent of the population. General health and sanitation conditions are fair, but could be improved by better sanitation and a higher standard of nutrition.
9. Primary education in rural areas is in the vernacular but English is taught in the city schools. The University of Ceylon in Colombo gives the MBBS, DMS, and the LBS degrees.

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Health

65-47.3

Ceylon  
276  
38.3

TYPE ACT-DATE INFO-TFR-DATE AREA

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